

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

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R 201230Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1434

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 732

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID ECON MR FAO

SUBJECT: FAO NUTRITIONIST VISITS MAURITANIA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 685

PARIS FOR RAICHT; ROME FOR FODAG; BRUSSELS FOR USEC/WENDT
SUMMARY: MARCEL GANZIN, DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION: FAO ROME, SPENT
AUG 11-15 MAKING SURVEY OF NUTRITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN
MAURITANIA. HIS REPORT OF NUTRITIONAL STATE OF POPULATION IS
BASED TOTALLY ON BRIEFING BY CDC NUTRITIONAL SURVEY TEAM
MEMBER, DR. MARK GREENE. OTHER MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM GIRM,
AMEMBASSY, WFP, UNDP AND THEREFORE DUPLICATES EMBASSY REPORTING.
VALUE OF REPORT IS A PROFESSIONAL NUTRITIONIST'S ESTIMATE OF
PROPER DIET FOR MAURITANIANS AND RECOMMENDATION THAT FAO
NUTRITIONAL SURVEY TEAM BE SENT MAURITANIA.

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1. SUMMARY GANZIN'S REPORT: BECAUSE 70 PERCENT OF POPULATION

ARE NOMADS, FOOD AID CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEXT HARVEST. FOOD FOR THE NOMAD IS PROVIDED BY HIS FLOCKS WHICH ARE NOW MOSTLY DESTROYED; THEREFORE "IT IS NECESSARY TO ENVISAGE QUASI TOTAL FOOD AID (FOR THE NOMADS) OVER THE LONG TERM." GANZIN BELIEVES THAT WHAT LIVESTOCK REMAINS WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE NUTRITION NEEDED BY THE POPULATION. THE REMAINING 75 PERCENT SHOULD CONSIST OF 450 G OF CEREAL PER PERSON PER DAY (13.5 KG PER MONTH), 30 GRAMS POWDERED MILK PER DAY AND 20 GRAMS FAT PER DAY. THIS RATION, HE BELIEVES, WILL PRODUCE 1.900 CALORIES A DAY AND SUFFICIENTLY SATISFY PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS. GAZIN ESTIMATES 250 EXTRA CALORIES WILL BE PRODUCED LOCALLY. HE ADMITS HIS DIET WILL NOT CONTAIN THE SAME AMOUNT OF PROTEIN TO WHICH NOMAD POPULATION ACCUSTOMED, BUT GANZIN STRESSES FORMER LEVEL OF PROTEIN CONSUMPTION WAS "EXCESSIVE" AND POPULATION WILL SOON ADAPT TO THE NEW REGIMEN. HE ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT BISCUITS AND C.S.M. BE USED TO COMPLETE THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF "VULNERABLE GROUPS." BUT GANZIN FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE POPULATION FIGURES GOVERNMENT USES IN DETERMINING AMOUNT OF FOOD REQUIRED. "IF THERE ARE 1.2 MILLION INHABITANTS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ADMIT THAT THE ENTIRE POPULATION MUST RECEIVE 100 PERCENT OF ITS FOOD (FROM THE GOVERNMENT)." HE RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER ITS POPULATION BASE FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE. NONETHELESS, IN SURVEYING AVAILABLE STOCKS OF FOOD GANZIN WRITES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IMNREAL DANGER OF "BEING EMBARRASSED TOWARD THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND IN OCTOBER." IT IS FOR THIS REASON, HE WRITES, THAT THE GIRM HAS REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL 18,000 TONS GRAIN BE DIVERTED FROM STOCKS IN DAKAR (REFTEL).

2. GANZIN MAKES THE "PERSONAL" RECOMMENDATION THAT FAO SEND A NUTRITIONAL SURVEY MISSION IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS TO FURTHER STUDY FUTURE FOOD NEEDS. HE ALSO STATES THAT EXCESSIVE FOOD AID COULD DESTROY THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY AND A "FOOD FOR WORK" PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE FUTURE.

3. UN RES REP CONFIRMED GIRM VERBAL REQUEST FOR FAO TEAM AND SAYS HE WILL BE WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS. RESREP BELIEVES TEAM WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FOOD AID ASSISTANCE NEEDED THROUGH END OF 1974.

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4. GANZIN HAS GIVEN REPORT TO GIRM AND FORWARDED IT TO FAO ROME, WFP AND UN. COPIES BEING POUCHED UNDER COVER AIRGRAM TO AID/W, AF/N AND AID DAKAR. SHURTLEFF

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